



*Best Wishes for
a Happy Holiday Season
from the Agents
in the State Travel Office*

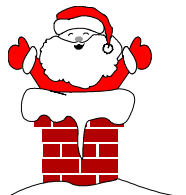
Thanks for Making 2003 Another Great Year in State Travel

The agents in the State Travel Office are looking forward to another great year working with all of you. Although, like most of us, they are busy with holiday activities, they did take time to wish everyone a great holiday season and to share a little about themselves, including a few holiday memories and traditions.

Mary Marsden

Mary is an animal lover whose best friend is her pet Cockatiel, Whitt. Mary got Whitt just before she started working in the State Travel Office seven years ago. She loves to travel and will be spending three weeks in France next summer.

Mary's favorite Christmas memory is sleeping in front of the tree on Christmas Eve with her sisters, trying to catch Santa coming down the chimney.



Tami Nelson

Tami, who has worked in the State Travel Office since it opened in 1992, says her two sons keep her very busy. Her 5-year-old son, Chase, has been reading for a year, and Tyler, 3½, started reading this past summer. She says, "I'm a proud mom watching them read well when they are so young."

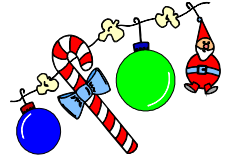
When Tami was little, it was a tradition for her mom to make apple dumplings to eat the night the family decorated their Christmas tree. She says she's not quite the chef her mother is, so the tradition she and her husband have established with their sons is to open one gift on Christmas Eve.



Angie Mackelprang

Angie, our bubbly, outgoing agent, is excited to have just bought a new house. After working in the travel industry for 10 years, she is now spending most of her “leisure” time decorating the house and settling in. Of course having a new house also means spending a lot of money! Oh well, c’est la vie!

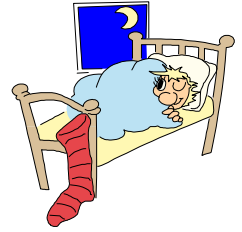
Angie says every year her family makes ornaments for each other. It’s a tradition they have done for years.



Lynette Saccomanno

Lynette and her son Derek, 9, have been working on what they call “The Pug and Potter Show.” They have been practicing with their Cockatiel, Potter, and Pugsley, their Pug dog, for a stint on Animal Planet’s “Amazing Animal Videos.” They are trying to train Potter (named after Harry Potter, of course) to sit on Pugsley’s head. Lynette’s son Nick, who she describes as a 24-year-old “computer geek,” occasionally stops by to watch from the sidelines.

Lynette’s fondest memories of Christmas when she was growing up are of waking up early (4:00 or 5:00 a.m.) and waiting for all her brothers and sisters to wake up. There was a lot of whispering back and forth between bedrooms. While their parents pretended to be sleeping, the kids would then “sneak” down the hallway and peek around the corner to see what Santa had left. She says the anticipation was unbelievable!



Kandace Malan

Kandace, who started working in our Travel Office in September of this year, has been in the travel business for eight years. Married for three and one-half years, she has a darling 1-year-old daughter who thinks she is a dog. Just the other day Kandace turned around to find her on her hands and knees, eating out of the dog dish!

Kandace’s favorite holiday tradition is that every year when she was growing up the whole family would go to the mountains to cut down a Christmas tree. They still do when they can get everyone together. Fortunately, this was one of those years!



Dallas Stewart

Dallas has five years of experience working in travel and started in the State Travel Office last month. Outside the office, she is busy working on a BA in Parks Recreation and Tourism and working on her house and yard. Dallas also enjoys spending time with her “wonderful husband” of two and one-half years.

Her favorite holiday memory is of opening her Christmas stocking. She says, “When we were little kids my mom always stuffed our stockings with little things like candy, earrings, and necklaces. My stocking was the most exciting thing I always looked forward to in the morning!” ➔

